

**Listing of the Claims**

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant comprising:

a biodegradable material internally reinforced with biodegradable reinforcing elements having wound into a helical configuration around a winding center having an axis, wherein said helical configuration is capable of imparting a force in a direction perpendicular to the axis of said winding center. and internally reinforced with biodegradable reinforcing elements.

7. (Previously Presented) The surgical implant of claim 6, wherein the biodegradable reinforcing elements are selected from the group consisting of organic filaments, organic fibers, and organic membrane fibers.

8. (Previously Presented) The surgical implant of claim 7, wherein the biodegradable reinforcing elements are selected from the group consisting of bands, braids, yarns, fabrics, and non-woven structures.

9. (Previously Presented) The surgical implant of claim 6, wherein the biodegradable reinforcing elements are selected from the group consisting of inorganic filaments, fibers, and membrane fibers.

10. (Previously Presented) The surgical implant of claim 6, wherein the implant has a screw-threaded configuration.
11. (Previously Presented) The surgical implant of claim 6, further comprising a second biodegradable material having a second helical configuration and internally reinforced with second biodegradable reinforcing elements, wherein the biodegradable material and the second biodegradable material are at least partially nested within each other.
12. (Previously Presented) The surgical implant of claim 6, wherein the biodegradable material is self-reinforced.
13. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 1, wherein the oriented biodegradable material is self-reinforced.